

He reached out to his fellow man in so many ways during his lifetime. His biggest contribution and blessing was his endowment of the Myron Stratton Home. Some of his benevolent good deeds include buying the old courthouse in Colorado Springs and furnishing the county with the money to build a new courthouse on a city block that he provided. He also purchased a corner lot downtown for \$70,000 offering it to the federal government for half of its value in order to build a new post office. It was recently named the Winfield Scott Stratton Post Office by a new Congressional Act. In addition to these contributions, Stratton also built a convention hall and pavilion seating 35,000 people for the use of the city and gave five thousand dollars a year to keep it maintained. He donated supplies worth \$50,000 when the fire of 1896 in Cripple Creek Colorado left 5,000 people without shelter or goods. He also gave \$25,000 to the Colorado School of Mines to complete the "Hall of Metallurgy", recognized by Colorado's 13th General Assembly. He made gifts of \$70,000 to Colorado College and \$25,000 to the Colorado Deaf and Blind School. Stratton donated approximately \$85,000 to feed and house the homeless; made substantial contributions to churches, supported miners, laborers, laundry women and others in need.

Stratton's most lasting gift was a bequest in his handwritten will directing that his wealth be delivered to the trustees of a charitable institution for acting and maintaining a free home, "for poor persons without means of support, and who are physically unable by reason of old age, youth, sickness or other infirmity to earn a livelihood." This home is called the Myron Stratton Home in honor of his father.

After Stratton "stuck it rich" he continued to live frugally and simply by helping the poor, saying "I count my money as a gift from the father of us all, and I am responsible for its administration as a good steward." Stratton backed his philosophy with action and no other individual gave so generously to so many individuals and organizations. Stratton's benevolent gifts in today's world would be astronomical. Before he died in 1902, he gave away over \$3 million. In any time of prosperity there will be many children from broken homes who could be helped by homes like the Myron Stratton Home. Winfield Scott Stratton, was a man of vision and one of Colorado's greatest humanitarians. His good deeds continue to be a good example of our need to help one another.

#### ALLSTATE FOUNDATION

#### HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 20, 1998*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the ongoing efforts of the Allstate Foundation, which works in partnership with national and local nonprofit organizations in the areas of community and economic development, automobile and highway safety, and personal safety and security. Through corporate investment, marketing initiatives, and employee volunteer projects, the Allstate Foundation delivers on its commitments to build and strengthen our communities. I am proud to have Allstate headquartered in my District.

Since 1991, Allstate Foundation has been working in conjunction with the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) and the Department of Justice to help spread the message to families across the nation that identifying and practicing effective crime prevention methods is essential to their safety and welfare. In the eight-year history of this partnership, the Allstate Foundation has consistently supported the efforts of the National Crime Prevention Council by identifying and funding innovative and prevention and awareness tools. The Foundation first demonstrated its outstanding level of commitment to community safety by providing significant funding for the further enrichment and distribution of a 1993 Council auto theft prevention publication.

In 1996, Allstate helped to create the NCPC's growing presence on the world wide web, giving more people more crime prevention know-how than ever before. Today, five sites are on-line because of Allstate's contributions. These sites offer answers to basic questions about what one individual—or ten—can do to help stop crime and build better, stronger communities. The web sites engage teens, parents, teachers, law enforcement officials, grandparents, and business owners in fighting crime—giving them concrete examples of what they can do, outlining proven strategies, and informing them about training opportunities and events.

Since May 1, 1997, the National Crime Prevention Council's On-Line Resource Center has welcomed more than 100,000 visitors. Visits have skyrocketed to more than 16,000 a month, and this number is growing every day, a testament to the site's quality and effectiveness in spreading the Council's crime prevention message.

The partnership among the NCPC, the Department of Justice, and the Allstate Foundation deserves much credit for their successful on-line project. There are already plans to expand the website's content and exposure as part of a multi-million dollar public service campaign on radio and TV, and in print and on billboards across the country. The Allstate Foundation's safety team has also worked with NCPC to adapt the video, *Are You Safe: A National Test on Crime Prevention* for use by its agents as a public service to help educate individuals on personal and home security.

With further input from law enforcement, criminal justice, and private sector communities, and with Allstate's continued involvement, the web project and other National Crime Prevention Council initiatives will continue to serve as great tools for all Americans in the fight to prevent crime. I commend the Allstate Foundation for their contributions to this noble cause.

#### DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

#### HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 17, 1998*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 4194) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Chairman, my amendment is simple. It accomplishes a goal that America's veterans believe is important and that Congress should strongly support.

My amendment has been endorsed by the American Legion, AMVETS, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and the Vietnam Veterans of America.

Almost identical legislation that I introduced last year received strong bipartisan support.

As the ranking Democrat on the Veterans Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Health, I have become very familiar with the serious problem of sexual abuse and harassment in the military.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is responsible for treating the victims of these crimes and abuses. In my oversight role on the Health Subcommittee I have had the opportunity to speak with and learn from women veterans who suffered from this abuse.

The high rate of sexual abuse in the armed services requires continued action on this issue.

In 1996, approximately 190,000 women served in our armed services.

That year, the Pentagon conducted a survey of active duty women and found that five percent of women had been the victims of sexual assault during their period of military service.

National surveys conducted by the VA indicate that approximately 20 percent of women seeking services from VA medical facilities report having experienced a rape or other form of assault on active duty while 35 to 50 percent report suffering some form of sexual harassment.

Such findings—and high profile news reports of incidents of abuse—have made clear the existence of a very serious problem in our armed forces and the need to move more aggressively to end the tragedy of sexual violence and harassment.

Rick Schultz, the executive director of the Vietnam Veterans of America, which supports this initiative, said, "in our nation's fervor to prosecute the offenders, we must not forget to attend to the needs of the victims."

This amendment puts those words into law.

This amendment also is smart policy.

The prevalence of substance abuse, homelessness, family breakdown, poverty and the receipt of public assistance is higher among women veterans who suffered from abuse during their military service than it is among the general women veterans population.

The women veterans that I have spoke with told me that the VA's program had helped them turn their lives around. Helped them get off public assistance, to treat their addictions and become active in their families and communities once again.

Sadly, the VA's sexual trauma treatment program is scheduled to expire at the end of their year.

The possible termination of this program would be tragic for the thousands of women who have benefited from the services provided by the VA.

More than 18,000 women veterans and 200 male veterans have sought and received therapeutic counseling at hundreds of VA medical facilities throughout America.